

What may be Missing in My Life, Part 2 - Acts 19:1-7 - February 15th, 2009

- We had our first look at these first seven verses in Acts 19 last week. Today we'll take a second look at this account of Paul in Ephesus.
- One of the reasons for this is that the text we have before us has been the source of quite controversy and debate in Christendom.

- Luke tells us that, upon his arrival in Ephesus, the Apostle Paul asks these Ephesian disciples if they had received the Holy Spirit.
- It's not just "that" he asked this, it's "how" he asked this that has fueled the doctrinal divisions about the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- Again, this is the main reason why we're going to take and tackle this topic, hopefully answering any unanswered questions about this.

- I suppose the first question on the table is; "why would Paul even ask them if they had received the Holy Spirit since they believed."
- Some commentators suggest that Paul must have noticed something lacking in these Ephesians for him to ask about the Holy Spirit.
- This is sort of out of character for the Apostle Paul, and it would stand to reason that he discerned there was something missing.

- This is part two of a study titled; "What may be Missing in My Life." In this series, we're studying about the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

- By way of both review and introduction, we identified three conditions with these 12 Ephesians that led Paul to say and do what he did.
- In other words, there was something missing in their lives as believers, and Paul not only discerns it, he does something about it.
- Perhaps there is someone here this morning who, if the truth be known, is a lot like these Ephesians. Something is missing in your life.

1. I don't have the baptism in the Holy Spirit (Verses 1-2)

- Paul asks them this very interesting and very important question; "have you received the Holy Spirit 'since' you believed?"

2. I don't have an understanding of the Holy Spirit (Verses 3-4)

- These believers had a limited understanding knowing only about John's baptism, and they didn't know anything about the Holy Spirit.

3. I don't have the gifts of the Holy Spirit (Verses 5-7)

- Paul baptizes them, then he lays hands on them, and the Holy Spirit came "upon" them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.
- Now we have got ourselves a theological problem, don't we? They are given the "gifts of the Spirit," when baptized in the Spirit.

- This brings up a host of questions for many, questions like; are the gifts of the Holy Spirit for us today, or did they cease back then?
- Isn't a Christian baptized in the Holy Spirit when they give their lives to Christ? Or, is speaking in tongues evidence of being Spirit filled?
- We will answer these questions from the Bible, and hopefully clear up the confusion surrounding this sometimes divisive issue.

- First, we need to know that these Ephesian believers had the Holy Spirit however the problem was, the Holy Spirit didn't have them.
- In other words, there is a difference between the two by virtue of how there are different experiences of and with the Holy Spirit.

"The Holy Spirit is a person not a force. If I view the Holy Spirit as a force, I'll see it as how much of the Holy Spirit I have. If I view the Holy Spirit as a Person, I'll see it as how much of the Holy Spirit has me."

Pastor Damian Kyle – Calvary Chapel Modesto

- I would be grossly remiss to not clearly explain what this difference is, and what the Bible says about the baptism with the Holy Spirit.
- For purpose of clarity, I'll use the "baptism," with the Spirit, "filled" with the Spirit, and receiving the "gift" of the Spirit interchangeably.
- With that, let's start tackling some of these tough questions, and trust that God, by the Holy Spirit, will speak to us regarding this.

Question #1: What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

- It's when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and empowers you.

Acts 1:8 But **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you;** and you will be my witnesses in **Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."**

POWER - dunamis (doo'-nam-is); from NT:1410; force (literally or figuratively); specially, miraculous power (usually by implication, a miracle itself): (*Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright (c) 1994, Biblesoft and International Bible Translators, Inc.*)

Question #2: Don't I receive the Holy Spirit when I receive Christ?

- Yes and no. It is ideal for someone to be baptized with the Holy Spirit at the time of their water baptism. Jesus is the example of this.

Matthew 3:16-17 16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." NIV

"There has been unneeded division between Pentecostal and dispensational theology over the issue of the baptism of the Spirit. By and large, Pentecostal theology declares the baptism of the Spirit is subsequent to water baptism. On the other hand, dispensational theology generally teaches the baptism of the Spirit is inherent in water baptism. I believe that the baptism of the Spirit, ideally, is simultaneous with water baptism. As seen in Jesus' baptism, when a believer comes out of the waters of baptism, that is the ideal time to expect the baptism of the Spirit as well. Now, it doesn't always happen that way because many people aren't aware of the possibility of being baptized in the Spirit at the time of water baptism. Consequently, it can be months, years, or even decades before they understand that the lifelessness and listlessness, the dullness and dryness of their spiritual lives is the result of an absence of the "coming upon" ministry of the Spirit."

Jon Courson

- This "coming upon" of the Holy Spirit, is what I believe the Apostle Paul is asking the Ephesian believers about here in Acts 19.
- The "coming upon" of the Holy Spirit is the third of the three works of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. Let's look at all three.

1. The Holy Spirit is alongside me. (Para)
2. The Holy Spirit is in me. (En)
3. The Holy Spirit is poured out upon me. (Epi)

1 "Para" = Along side, as a helper. It's the word we use for Paramedic, Paralegal, or a Parachute.

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and **he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-**

COUNSELOR - parakletos (par-ak'-lay-tos); an intercessor, consoler: KJV - advocate, comforter.
(Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright (c) 1994, Biblesoft and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

2 "En" = In or indwelling.

John 14:17 **the Spirit of truth.** The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, **for he lives with you and will be in you.**

3 "Epi" = Upon or overflowing.

Acts 1:4, 8 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ...8 But you will receive power **when the Holy Spirit comes upon you;** and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- The pitcher of water is alongside, **(para)** the glass.
- The pitcher of water is being poured in, **(en)** the glass.
- The pitcher of water is being poured upon, **(epi)** the glass to overflowing.

The Biblical examples of the Holy Spirit being poured out upon a believer subsequent to the Holy Spirit indwelling the believer at conversion are many, not the least of them which is found in the 8th chapter of Acts.

Acts 8:12-17 12 But **when they believed** Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, **they were baptized**, both men and women. 13 **Simon himself believed and was baptized.** And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw. 14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria **had accepted the word of God**, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 When they arrived, **they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit,** 16 **because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.** 17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Question #3: I thought there was only one baptism?

Actually, the Bible describes three baptisms:

1. Baptized into the body of Christ
2. Baptized with water
3. Baptized with the Holy Spirit

1. The Body of Christ:

1 Corinthians 12:13 For we were all **baptized by one Spirit into one body**-whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free-and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

2. Water, 3 the Holy Spirit:

Acts 1:5 For **John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."**

Matthew 3:11 **"I baptize you with water for repentance.** But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.**

- What about Ephesians 4:4-6? This "one baptism" speaks of the "one baptism" into the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:4-6 4 There is one body and one Spirit- just as you were called to one hope when you were called- 5 one Lord, one faith, **one baptism;** 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Hebrews 6:1-3 1 Therefore **let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity,** not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, 2 **instruction about baptisms,** the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

Question #4: How do I get baptized in the Holy Spirit? Ask!

Luke 11:9-13 9 "So I say to you: **Ask** and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. 11 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"**

Question #5: Is speaking in tongues the only evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit?

- No, it can be a sign, because it's one of the gifts however, gifts are received in an event, while fruits are grown in a process.

Galatians 5:22-24 22 But **the fruit of the Spirit is love**, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

"The fruit of the Spirit is love. It will be that which is manifested when a person is baptized in the Holy Spirit."
Pastor Chuck Smith – Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa

- Once I've been baptized with the Holy Spirit, I need to continually, daily, be filled with the Holy Spirit.

- We should perhaps ask, "*are you baptized in the Holy Spirit?*" instead of asking, "*have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit?*"

John 7:37-39 37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) KJV

- All that to say this; perhaps Paul asked these believers about this because he saw that they were missing the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

- Perhaps this is what you are missing in your life. You have never been baptized in the Holy Spirit. Well, you say; "what can I do?"

- It has been wisely said that without God, I can't. But without me, He won't. In other words, according to Jesus, all I have to do is ask.

I believe we should profit immensely were we to declare a period of silence and self-examination during which each one of us searched his own heart and sought to meet every condition for a real baptism of power from on high.

A.W. Tozer, "The Pursuit of Man," p. 94